

7 September 2015

Dear County Councillor

On Tuesday 8th September, you will be asked to approve the draft Local Transport Plan (LTP4) at the Oxfordshire County Council's full council meeting.

We call on you *NOT* to give your approval to the draft Plan, until the proposed Park & Ride strategy is dropped.

The draft LTP4 contains a costly scheme to relocate Park & Ride sites in the Oxford Green Belt at the following locations: Langford Lane, East of Kidlington, Cumnor, Lodge Hill (Abingdon) and Sandford, plus expansion at the existing Thornhill site.

We believe the proposed new locations would seriously jeopardise the Oxford Green Belt, without clear benefits.

There is a complete lack of detailed research or supporting evidence to justify such a policy in either environmental or economic terms.

It would certainly encroach upon the countryside and undermine the Green Belt, but we do not think it will do anything to get people out of their cars. In fact, we fear it will just increase the amount of traffic to and from the radial routes to surrounding towns.

Fundamentally, it is ill-conceived as it is based on trying to get more and more people into an already over-crowded City.

We are particularly concerned about the Lodge Hill area of the A34 and the proposals for a freight service area/lorry park, a Park & Ride and a 1,000 house development - together these would represent a thorough extermination of the Green Belt in this area (a Green Belt that separates two separate, very different, ancient historic towns), as well as a potential threat to Cothill Fen Special Area of Conservation. How can this possibly tally with David Cameron and George Osborne's statement in the Times in July 2015: 'We will always protect the green belt and make sure planning decisions are made by local people.'

We are also deeply concerned that public responses to the consultation have not been properly considered. We understand that a very high level of responses were received from the public calling for the proposed Park & Ride scheme to be dropped, yet their views do not seem to have been taken seriously.

We acknowledge that the County has now said it will look at 'a comprehensive Park & Ride study', but we fear that the strategy has already been decided, and that the Council is simply assessing the options already decided upon, rather than giving due consideration to *all* options.

Given the above we call on you to:

- recognise the value of the Oxford Green Belt in protecting the setting and character of Oxford and Abingdon and their surrounding villages, and as a natural capital asset; and**
- not give your approval to the draft Plan, until the proposed Park & Ride strategy is dropped.**

Yours faithfully

Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE), Oxfordshire Branch
North Abingdon Local Plan Group (NALPG)
Sunningwell Parishioners Against Damage to the Environment (SPADE)
Oxford Green Belt Network (OGBN)